



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1011 - HB 1403

March 17, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that caseloads do not exceed 20 cases per case manager by January 1, 2024, and so that caseloads do not exceed 12 cases per case manager by July 1, 2024, for either active cases relating to initial assessments of allegations of child abuse or neglect, or for children monitored and supervised in active cases.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – The current DCS budget contains funding sufficient to fund a portion of this legislation; however, due to staff vacancy rates, funds have not been expended; such funds revert to the General Fund. To the extent all required positions were filled, the recurring increase in expenditures would be \$1,095,900 in state funding and \$734,400 in federal funding in FY23-24, and \$54,032,700 in state funding and \$36,206,900 in federal funding in FY24-25 and subsequent years.

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-5-132(a)(1)-(2), DCS is required to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads not to exceed an average of 20 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect, or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.
- The proposed legislation would require DCS to maintain staffing levels so that caseloads do not exceed, as opposed to not exceeding an average of, 20 active cases by January 1, 2024, and then are lessened to 12 active cases per case manager by July 1, 2024.
- DCS requires one team leader for every five case managers, and one team coordinator for every four team leaders.
- According to information provided by DCS, there are currently 1,407 case managers who are responsible for 28,952 active cases.
- In order for the caseload of a case manager to not exceed 20 active cases, DCS will be required to fill at least an additional 41 case manager positions $[(28,952 \text{ cases} / 20 \text{ cases}) - 1,407 \text{ current case managers}]$; 8 new team leaders $(41 \text{ new case managers} / 5 \text{ new team leaders})$; and 2 new team coordinator positions $(8 \text{ new team leaders} / 4 \text{ new team coordinators})$.

- Since the proposed legislation requires caseloads to not exceed 20 cases for half of FY23-24, the expenditures associated with such positions are estimated to be \$1,830,259 [(\$2,818,596 salaries + \$841,921 benefits) x 50%], which would consist of \$1,095,902 in state funding and \$734,387 in federal funding, as follows:
 - \$805,314 in DCS state funds (\$1,830,259 x 44.0%).
 - \$290,588 in TennCare state funds [(\$1,830,259 x 46.0%) x 34.515%].
 - \$551,331 in TennCare federal funds [(\$1,830,259 x 46.0%) x 65.485%].
 - \$183,056 in Title IV-E federal funds (\$1,830,259 x 10.0%).
- In order for the caseload of a case manager to not exceed 12 active cases, DCS will be required to fill at least an additional 1,006 case manager positions [(28,952 cases / 12 cases) – 1,407 current case managers]; 201 new team leaders (1,006 new case managers / 5 new team leaders); and 50 new team coordinator positions (201 new team leaders / 4 new team coordinators).
- Expenditures associated with such positions are estimated to be \$90,239,570 (\$69,485,772 salaries + \$20,753,476 benefits) in FY24-25 subsequent years and would consist of \$54,032,657 in state funding and \$36,206,913 in federal funding, as follows:
 - \$39,705,411 in DCS state funds (\$90,239,570 x 44.0%).
 - \$14,327,246 in TennCare state funds [(\$90,239,570 x 46.0%) x 34.515%].
 - \$27,182,956 in TennCare federal funds [(\$90,239,570 x 46.0%) x 65.485%].
 - \$9,023,957 in Title IV-E federal funds (\$90,239,570 x 10.0%).
- According to information provided by DCS, there is currently a 23 percent vacancy rate among case manager positions statewide, the costs of which are currently covered in DCS's budget.
- Assuming all open caseworker positions were filled, the average caseload per case manager would be less than 12 in all except three regions.
- According to DCS, all such unspent funds for these unfilled positions revert to the General Fund. DCS' total reversion in FY21-22 was \$55,400,081.
- Barring any other action taken or unforeseen circumstance occurring, the vacant positions will remain vacant at a similar rate and DCS will not be able to comply with the proposed legislation.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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